METHODOLOGY

America's Best Children's Hospitals 2025

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results







Methodology – America's Best Children's Hospitals 2025

Summary of the project

- To provide parents of sick children with a comprehensive resource for informed decision-making, Statista and Newsweek have partnered for the third time to award the leading children's hospitals in the U.S.
- The America's Best Children's Hospitals 2025 ranking recognizes the leading hospitals in eight pediatric subspecialties.
- The ranking features the top 50 hospitals for Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery, Neonatology, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Oncology, Orthopedics and Pulmonology.
- The underlying data analysis is based on **four data sources**:
 - Nationwide online survey: During the survey period from February to March 2025, over ten thousand medical experts were invited to an online survey in cooperation with Newsweek. Participants with knowledge about pediatric care (e.g., general and specialized pediatricians and nurses) were asked to recommend leading children's hospitals in the U.S.
 - Hospital quality metrics: Hospital quality metrics with a focus on indicators relevant to the respective subspecialties and accreditations/certifications were considered.
 - Patient satisfaction data based on Google reviews was included.
 - Statista PROMs Implementation Survey
- Hospitals specializing in multiple specialties received specific recommendation scores for each respective medical field. Therefore, a hospital can be represented in more than one list if it receives enough recommendations in each specialty.
- · Hospitals with a very small number of beds were not considered in the ranking.



New features and changes in the 2025 edition

- The following list provides a brief overview of all **major changes in this year's edition** compared to the 2024 rankings:
 - Increased quality metrics & PROMs implementation weighting: This year, the weighting of the hospital quality metrics pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on hospital quality indicators. In addition, the weighting of the PROMs implementation pillar was increased.
 - Inclusion of additional hospital quality metrics data sources: Medicare Fee-for-Service claims, including quality performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia, were included.
 - **Updated data source for patient satisfaction**(1): Evaluations from Google reviews were incorporated as a proxy for patient satisfaction.
 - Inclusion of additional accreditations, certifications and designations:
 - American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
 Magnet Recognition Program®
 - Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Planetree certification
 - Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)

- Det Norske Veritas (DNV) certifications
- National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) accreditation
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Centers
- National Institute on Aging (NIA) designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers
- **Updated Statista PROMs Implementation Survey**: The survey, eligibility thresholds, and display of participating hospitals have been updated.
- **Inclusion of previous year's recommendation data**: To account for reputational continuity, recommendation data from last year was factored into the reputation pillar.



Hospital evaluation is based on four pillars, ranging from peer evaluations and quality metrics to patient satisfaction and PROMS implementation

Data sources





Medical experts with knowledge about children's care were invited to the survey





Hospital recommendations from peers

From February to March 2025, Statista invited over ten thousand medical professionals (mostly doctors, but also hospital managers and other healthcare professionals) with knowledge about children's hospitals to an online survey. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com.









Nationwide online survey among medical professionals with knowledge about the different pediatric subspecialties, as well as hospital managers.

Participants were asked to recommend hospitals in a **subspecialty they were most familiar with** and to recommend hospitals in a second subspecialty.

Recommendations for own employer/hospital were not allowed.

Analysis of **nationwide recommendations** for each of the eight subspecialties⁽¹⁾. This year, the recommendations from the previous year were also factored into the analysis. Recommendations from the 2024 survey period were given less weight compared to those from 2025.

REPUTATION SCORE



Hospital quality metrics - Part 1



Hospital quality metrics - Accreditations & certifications

- Several accreditations/certifications/center designations were included in the scoring analysis (where available).
- The following **accreditations**, **certifications**, **specialized program enrollments**, **and center designations**⁽¹⁻²⁾ reflect a range of structural and/or quality requirements which are relevant for the subspecialty rankings:
 - American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
 - Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Planetree
 - The Joint Commission (TJC)
 - Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)

- Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
- Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT)
- National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- In addition to general hospital certifications, available **accreditations/certifications relevant to specific medical fields** (e.g., Advanced Shoulder Surgery Certification for orthopedic hospitals, Advanced Comprehensive Heart Attack Center Certification for cardiac hospitals) were used.



Hospital quality metrics - Part 2



Hospital quality metrics - Structural and Organizational Data

- The AHA Annual Survey Database has been included in the scoring model. The database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care system and features over 1,300 hospital data points(1). For America's Best Children's Hospitals, structural and organizational data of hospital facilities was used to be included in the hospital quality metrics score.
- The following indicator groups of the **AHA Annual Survey Database** 2022 were used as part of the quality metrics score^(2,3):

General indicators

- · Health research & screening
- Trauma center
- Workforce strategic planning
- Technological equipment

Pediatric specific indicators

- Comprehensive pediatric medical, surgical, and emergency services
- Specialized pediatric intensive care and diagnostic catheterization
- Children's wellness and preventive care programs
- Pediatric substance use disorder treatment

Health equity

- Health equity goals
- DEI disaggregated data
- Health equity strategic plan



Hospital quality metrics - Part 3



Hospital quality metrics - Structural and Organizational Data

• Specific indicator groups of the **AHA**⁽¹⁾ **Annual Survey Database 2022** were used to be part of the quality metrics score^(2,3):

Cardiology specific indicators⁽⁴⁾

- Pediatric cardiology services, including surgery and catheterization
- Specialized care for cardiac electrophysiology and heart transplants
- Cardiac intensive care and closed unit services
- Pediatric cardiac rehabilitation programs

Cancer specific indicators

- Oncology Services
- Chemotherapy
- Hospice Program

Neonatal specific indicators

- Closed unit neonatal intensive care
- Neonatal intensive care
- · Neonatal intermediate care

Neurology specific indicators(4)

- Neurological services
- Pain management program
- Telehealth stroke care

Orthopedics specific indicators

- Orthopedic services and arthritis treatment
- Computer-assisted orthopedic surgery
- Physical rehabilitation and sports medicine
- Prosthetic and orthotic services

Hospital quality metrics - Part 4



Hospital quality metrics - Performance measures

- Hospital quality metrics relevant to each pediatric subspecialty from Arcadia and CMS were evaluated.
- Medicare Fee-for-Service claims sourced from Arcadia⁽¹⁻²⁾ were available for:
 - Facilities' episode-level performance by medical field for the following measures:
 - o Average LOS (Days) of Institutional Long-term Stay
 - ER Visits per 1,000 Episodes
 - Mortality Rate
 - Complications by Episode
 - o Unplanned Readmissions per 1,000 Episodes

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)⁽³⁾ data were available for:
 - Vaccination rates of staff
 - o Influenza
 - o COVID-19



Publicly available patient satisfaction data on American hospitals was analyzed

Patient satisfaction data



Patient satisfaction

- Patient satisfaction reflects the **quality of care from the patient's perspective**, indicates the quality other patients can expect to receive, and influences a hospital's reputation and financial performance.
- Evaluations from Google were researched for each children's hospital as a proxy for patient satisfaction with the hospital.
- Google reviews reflect real patient feedback, provide a standardized rating, and help identify trends in hospital satisfaction over time.
- Children's hospitals are rated up to 5 stars on Google.
- A score was assigned based on the hospital's star rating relative to all evaluated facilities.
- Hospitals must have at least five reviews to have received a satisfaction score, ensuring a minimum level of feedback.

SCORE FOR PATIENT SATISFACTION



The Statista PROMs Implementation Survey collects data directly from hospitals

PROMs Implementation Survey



Statista PROMs Implementation Survey

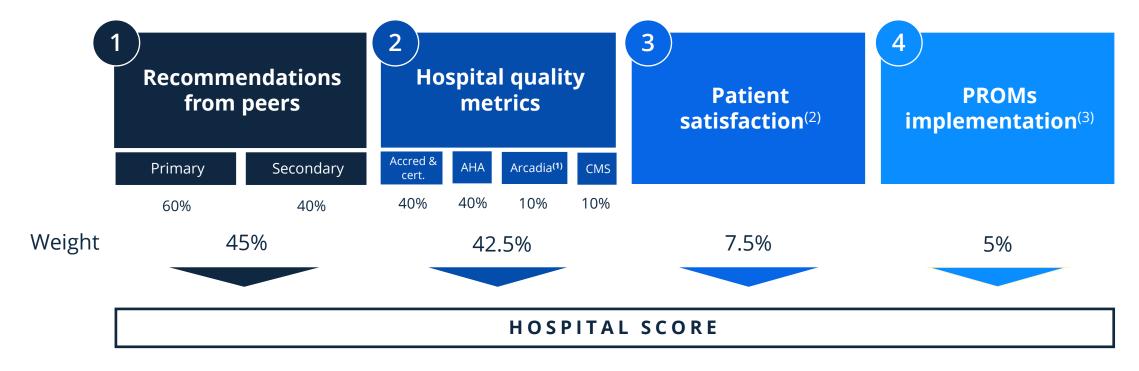
- Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are defined as standardized, validated questionnaires completed by patients to measure their perception of their functional well-being and quality of life.
- Survey cycle: In fall/winter of each year, Newsweek and Statista conduct the PROMs Implementation Survey⁽¹⁾ to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, auditing and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.
- Statista has partnered with the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes (including PROMs). ICHOM promotes the development of the PROMs Implementation Survey, as well as the use of the data from PROMs (and other patient-important outcomes), towards the advancement of value-based healthcare.
- A **grading system** for the different questions was built to determine a **PROMs implementation score** for each participating hospital. Only hospitals that achieved **a minimum of 50%** (of the maximum 100% score) were eligible to be graded and received a maximum of up to 5% towards the total score.
- Future survey cycles will be announced on <u>r.statista.com</u>, <u>newsweek.com</u>, and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: <u>hospitals@statista.com</u> or <u>here</u>.

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION



A score was calculated for each hospital

Scoring model



Primary recommendations from peers (medical and other healthcare professionals within the same subspecialty) account for 60% of the reputation score. Secondary recommendations (e.g., Endocrinology recommendations from Neonatologist) have a weight of 40% towards the reputation score.

Arcadia data was available for the subspecialties Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, and Pulmonology. If Arcadia data was not available, the subweighting was evenly



distributed to the other subpillars.

Figure 1 - Figure

Evaluations from Google were researched for each children's hospital as a proxy for the patient satisfaction with the hospital.

The top hospitals in 8 pediatric subspecialties were awarded

Final ranking by pediatric subspecialties



Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Rank	Hospital	City	State
1	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	Chicago	Illinois
2	Cleveland Clinic Children's	Cleveland	Ohio
3	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
4	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston	Massachusetts
5	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Cincinnati	Ohio



Neonatology

Rank	Hospital	City	State
1	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston	Massachusetts
2	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
3	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Cincinnati	Ohio
4	Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford	Palo Alto	California
5	UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania

[...]

[...]

LEADING HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED IN EACH SUBSPECIALTY



Statista R, Newsweek, and ICHOM comprise the strong partner network behind the America's Best Children's Hospitals

Partner Network



About Statista R

Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit r.statista.com.

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Newsweek

About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

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ICHOM

About ICHOM

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, <u>www.ichom.org</u>) is the leading non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare by focusing on what truly matters to patients. They accomplish this by empowering patient and clinical leaders to standardize important clinical, quality of life, function and experience results for health care, and enabling transparent large-scale use to achieve patient-centric health system transformation. ICHOM's standardized 'sets' of patient-centred outcomes measures help all actors in healthcare design, deliver and evaluate care based on outcomes that matter to patients. To date, ICHOM has developed 45 outcome measure sets for conditions. The sets are available in IT-ready interoperable formats and have been implemented in 500+ care settings in 42+ countries.



Legal disclaimer for the ranking America's Best Children's Hospitals

Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and publicly available data sources at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 04/23/2024–04/22/2025 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.



Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used – Part 1

1. Total hospital bed (calculated)*	16. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
2. Certified trauma center - hospital	17. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
3. Hospital owns trauma certification	18. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and HCS leadership
4. Health research – hospital	19. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and HCS governance
5. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment	20. General medical and surgical care (pediatric) - hospital
6. Health screenings - hospital	21. Pediatric intensive care - hospital
7. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan	22. Pediatric diagnostic catheterization - hospital
8. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning	23. Children's wellness program - hospital
9. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO	24. Pediatric emergency department - hospital
10. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive	25. Substance use disorder pediatric services - hospital
11. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force	26. Closed unit - pediatric intensive care
12. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders	27. Closed unit - neonatal intensive care
13. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes	28. Neonatal intensive care - hospital
14. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training	29. Neonatal intermediate care – hospital
15. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development	30. Pediatric cardiology services - hospital



Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used – Part 2

- 31. Pediatric interventional cardiac catheterization hospital
- 32. Pediatric cardiac surgery hospital
- 33. Pediatric cardiac electrophysiology hospital
- 34. Cardiac intensive care hospital
- 35. Cardiac rehabilitation hospital
- 36. Heart transplant hospital
- 37. Cardiac Limited service hospital
- 38. Closed unit cardiac intensive care
- 39. Neurological services hospital
- 40. Pain management program hospital
- 41. Telehealth stroke care hospital
- 42. Arthritis treatment center hospital
- 43. Computer assisted orthopedic surgery (CAOS) hospital
- 44. Orthopedic services hospital
- 45. Physical rehabilitation outpatient services hospital

- 46. Prosthetic and orthotic services hospital
- 47. Sports medicine hospital
- 48. Chemotherapy hospital
- 49. Hospice program hospital
- 50. Oncology services hospital
- 51. Palliative care program hospital
- 52. Inpatient palliative care unit hospital
- 53. Image-guided radiation therapy hospital
- 54. Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) hospital
- 55. Shaped beam radiation system hospital
- 56. Stereotactic radiosurgery hospital
- 57. Bone marrow transplant hospital

